



Overview

Almost 26 million Americans have diabetes, and these rates are increasing.¹ Now it is more important than ever for health care professionals, like you, to come together to provide diabetes care, decrease the risk for complications of diabetes, and manage medication therapy.

You Can Make a Difference. You and other providers of pharmacy, podiatry, optometry, and dentistry (PPOD) are well positioned to advise and educate your patients about diabetes control and prevention. You may be the first to see a person with, or at risk for, diabetes. You also have the opportunity to:

- Give consistent diabetes messages.
- Recognize early danger signs.
- Promote the team approach to care.

Integrated, comprehensive care benefits everyone involved—patients, health care providers, and the community.

This Guide Will Show You How. This online resource, *Working Together to Manage Diabetes: A Guide for Pharmacy, Podiatry, Optometry, and Dentistry*, shows how practitioners in the four disciplines presented here—pharmacy, podiatry, optometry, and dentistry—can work collaboratively with each other, as well as with all other members of the health care team, such as primary health care providers, physician assistants, nurse educators, and community health workers to treat people with diabetes (or in some cases even prevent type 2 diabetes).



Inside the PPOD Guide, you will find:

- An introduction to team care
- Tips on communicating with patients
- Sections about each of the four PPOD areas
- Resources and links to other PPOD-related resources and organizations

Each section of the PPOD Guide provides a “quick course” on that health care specialty and its relation to diabetes. Because each section is written for professionals outside of that specialty, all team members who might care for a person with diabetes can collaborate and make cross-disciplinary treatment referrals.

This PPOD Guide is part of the *Working Together to Manage Diabetes PPOD Toolkit*, offering additional information and resources that can be customized to suit each provider’s practice and expertise. Other toolkit resources include:

- Patient education sheet and patient care checklist
- Patient fact sheet series
- PowerPoint presentation
- Quick reference guide to medications

Incorporate Diabetes Prevention Messages Into Your Practice. The PPOD Guide and the accompanying Toolkit will enhance providers’ medical practices and patient care, as well as educate all persons concerned with diabetic care. You and other health care providers will learn to:

- Recommend that patients receive routine exams, and explain to patients the importance of managing the ABCs (A1C, blood pressure, cholesterol, and smoking cessation).
- Reinforce the importance of self-exams and self-management education by patients and offer them materials and resources that are easy to use and understand.
- Create a network of engaged PPOD providers in the local community who recognize possible signs of diabetes across all four PPOD specialties.

Reference

1. American Diabetes Association. Standards of medical care in diabetes – 2013. *Diabetes Care* 2013; 36 Suppl 1: S11-66.